

Amendments to the Specification:

Please substitute the enclosed Abstract for the Abstract on file.

In the specification, please amend the following:

Page 1, line 1, after the title and the cross-reference paragraph, please insert:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention.--

Page 1, before the second paragraph beginning "Collision", please insert;

-2. The Prior Art.--

Page 1, before the last paragraph, beginning "The object", please insert

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 2, please delete the second paragraph as follows:

~~Further advantageous configurations are described in sub-claims 2-13. The advantages resulting therefrom may be taken from the description.~~

Page 2, before the third paragraph beginning The present invention . . . ", please insert:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Page 3, before line 3, please insert:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT--.

Page 5, please amend the first full paragraph as follows:

The use of the switch-off box 27 directly on the welding torch 20 offers the advantage of the switch-off box 27 having to take up less weight, thus exhibiting an improved switch-off behavior in the event of a collision. Moreover, the independent switch-off box 27 ensures optimum adaptations to be made in the arrangement of the switch-off box 27, since the latter may be used at the most diverse points in the robot system. It is also feasible to use the switch-off box 27 in such a manner that no welding components are connected, but that it is, for instance, used between the robot arm and the fastening means 30 for the

welding torch ~~10~~ 20.

Page 5, third full paragraph, please amend as follows:

The switch-off box 27 is configured in a manner that the coupling means 34 is resiliently mounted in the housing 33 comprised of two parts ~~30,~~ 31,32 wherein the coupling means 34 projects out of the housing 33 through an opening 35, whereas the other end of the coupling means 34 may terminate in the interior of the housing 33. The torch body 28 may be fastened to the projecting end of the coupling means 34. A cavity 36 is formed in the interior of the housing 33. The coupling means 34 is preferably insulated relative to the housing 33, thus allowing electric energy and, in particular, welding current, to be transmitted via the coupling means 34. To this end, an insulation ring 37 is arranged in the exemplary embodiment illustrated. Channels 38 may be arranged within the coupling means 34, whereby the supplied media such as, for instance, cooling liquid, protective gas, etc. may be transferred from one side of the coupling means 34 to its other side, thus safeguarding the function of the welding torch 10. Furthermore, the coupling means 34 comprises a supporting surface 39 for the punctual contact on the housing 33, which supporting surface in the exemplary embodiment shown is formed by an external ring 40 having an

L-shaped cross section and fastened to the insulation ring 37.

Said external ring 40 having an L-shaped cross section may be designed to extend circumferentially or to comprise only some sections. Thus, it is ensured, on the one hand, that the coupling means 34 will be secured against slipping out of the housing 33 and, on the other hand, that a punctual contact will be provided in the housing 33. It is, in fact, essential that the coupling means 34 contacts the housing 33 only point-wisely so as to enable the point-wise lifting from the housing 33 in the event of a collision. The external ring 40 may, of course, also be formed by the coupling means 34.

Page 6, please amend the last paragraph as follows:

In order to ensure a punctual abutment or contact on the housing 33, projections 41 are arranged on the external ring 40 so as to ensure punctual bearing on the housing 33. Instead of the projections 41, it is also feasible to use other spacer elements such as, for instance, spheres, in order to provide a punctual contact between the supporting surface 39 and the housing 33. In a preferred manner, three or five projections 41 are arranged there. The fixation of the coupling means 34 is realized by the aid of a screw connection 42 through the external ring 40 and the supporting surface 39, respectively, with a

spring element 44 arranged between a screw head 43 and the external ring 40 and the supporting surface 39, respectively. Thus, the entire coupling means 34 is resiliently mounted so as to cause the suitable displacement of the coupling means 34 at a collision of the connected parts and, in particular, the torch body 28 with a solid object. In order for this to be detected, contacting elements or switching elements ~~(not illustrated)~~ 48 are connected with the projections 41 and the supporting surface 39, respectively, in a manner that the contacting element will be activated or deactivated by the lifting of a single projection 41 from the housing 33 and a signal will, thus, be transmitted from the contacting element or switching element to an interfaced control device 4, or the robot system.